

What is the National Crime Information Center database? This is the database that every police officer in America accesses when they apprehend someone to see if the person is wanted anywhere in the country. If you had a DUI in Washington State, and you did not show up for your trial, and they catch you in Mobile, AL, and you are entered in the NCIC because of your DUI in Washington State, the officers in Mobile will hold you, and send you back to Washington State for your trial. But if you jump bail and do not show up for your immigration hearing or for your deportation proceeding, you are not treated the same way, your information is not currently being entered into the NCIC.

So I have been raising this and talking about it for quite some time now, and I have raised it with top officials in the Department of Homeland Security, and they say they are working on it and trying to enter the names faster. I know they as of December of last year they only had about 15,000 names entered into the Immigration Violators File of the NCIC which is really pathetically small. We ought to have them all of the absconder immigration violator files entered in there. This amendment would provide \$1 million to make sure those names are entered into the system.

Tomorrow we will proceed, hopefully, to call that amendment up and I will seek to have it made a part of the appropriations bill that is moving forward.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for your time tonight.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I believe we have, on behalf of the majority leader, Senator FRIST, some closing remarks and matters.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1382

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1382) to require the Secretary of the Interior to accept the conveyance of certain land, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Indian tribe.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1394

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1394) to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of United Nations reform. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. As you know, the U.N. emerged from the ashes of the Second World War with a mandate to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of human beings.

These basic principles embodied in the U.N. charter are still significant in today's changed strategic environment. Yet, the scandals and mismanagement that has engulfed the organization threaten both its reputation and its relevance.

These scandals have resulted in a consensus that the U.N. must be reformed. Three major reports have been released in the past 7 months, including one by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, that outline the need for specific reforms to make the U.N. more efficient, more accountable, more transparent, and more effective in responding to the challenges we face today. I am pleased to see that there is agreement on this need. Yet, I remind my colleagues that when the current Secretary-General took office in January 1997, he vowed to make the hard decisions necessary to reform the institution.

But 8½ years have gone by, and he has been unwilling or unable to do so. In fact, reprehensible dealings and scandalous behavior at the U.N. has continued unabated.

Furthermore, the U.N. budget has grown by leaps and bounds. Over the past 4 years, the U.N. regular budget has increased by more than \$1.1 billion over a 2-year period—from \$2.5 billion to \$3.6 billion.

The U.S. is handed a bill from the U.N. for 22 percent of the cost, and whether or not we agree with the way the U.N. spends its money, we are expected to pay. And this does not take into account the costs of peacekeeping operations, which are expected to be over \$5 billion this year alone.

The Constitution gives to Congress the power of the purse and as such, it is our duty to monitor how the American taxpayers' money is spent. In the case of the massive waste, fraud, and abuse at the U.N., we must take action to rectify an untenable situation.

As the recent report issued by the USIP Task Force on the United Nations said, "Americans are vested in a

United Nations that embodies values of honesty, decency, and fair play."

Yet, the U.N. is hardly a model for these basic values.

The appalling kickbacks, bribes, and financial mismanagement of the Oil-for-Food program are the most obvious illustration of an insufficient oversight system within the U.N. The design of the program and the failure of the U.N. to properly monitor it allowed Saddam Hussein to pocket billions of dollars in money that was meant for the Iraqi people suffering under his brutal regime.

Sexual exploitation and abuse by U.N. peacekeepers serving in missions around the world is an intolerable abuse of trust by those who are supposed to be contributing to a peaceful resolution to conflict situations.

Embezzlement and extravagant personal spending have been documented at U.N. programs such as UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Countries such as Zimbabwe, Cuba, and Sudan—known violators of the basic human rights of their citizens—have been included as members of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and have used their position to manipulate its agenda to prevent resolutions that condemn their human rights records.

If the U.N. does not act boldly, and act now, it will have little credibility to serve as an organization that promotes the values in its Charter. As a European diplomat told me recently, however, the U.N. is incapable of reforming itself. It is quite good at issuing reports, having meetings, appearing contrite, and then resolutely promising to change when news reports publicize the details of the problems within the organization. But history has shown that U.S. leadership is critical to ensuring that meaningful reform is implemented at the U.N.

Last month, the House of Representatives passed comprehensive legislation that provides a framework for implementing U.N. reform. This effort was led by the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE, who worked diligently to produce a responsible bill that addresses the need for serious, meaningful, and practical reform.

Today I am introducing this legislation in the Senate. I recognize that the method used in this bill to compel the U.N. to make these reforms may not be popular with some of my colleagues. But I feel that there is no other way to proceed.

This legislation requires that 50 percent of the U.S. contribution to the United Nations regular budget be withheld if specific reforms are not implemented. Before dismissing this approach, I urge my colleagues to examine the reforms mandated and the flexibility inherent in the legislation.

First, the reforms. Title I requires management and budgetary reforms to create a more streamlined, efficient,